

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims (as amended) are reproduced in the Appendix hereto. Please amend the claims as follows.

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B2 12. (Amended) A method of optimizing multi-enterprise supply chain agreements using an electronic option contract, the method comprising:

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receiving at a seller computer terms of an option contract from a buyer computer, the terms comprising an option corresponding to a buyer's range of forecasted demand for a product;
communicating to the buyer computer an acceptance of the terms of the option contract;
storing the terms of the accepted option contract in a memory accessible to the seller computer; [and]

receiving from the buyer computer a request to exercise the option with the buyer's updated forecasted demand for the product; and

enforcing the terms of the option contract at the seller computer without user input.

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B3 19. (Amended) A procurement manager operable to be executed on the processor of a buyer computer, the procurement manager comprising:

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a forecast module operable to determine the buyer's range of forecasted demand for a product;

a negotiation module operable to communicate to a seller computer an offer to enter into an option contract for the supply of a product, the option contract including a proposed option corresponding to the range of forecasted demand, the negotiation module further operable to receive from the seller computer a modified range of forecasted demand, to communicate the modified range of forecasted demand to the forecast module, and to receive from the forecast module a compromised range of forecasted demand;

an execution module operable to execute an option contract including an option corresponding to the compromised range of forecasted demand; and

an exercise module operable to receive from the forecast module an updated forecasted demand within the [comprised] compromised range of forecasted demand and to communicate to the seller computer a request to exercise the option with the updated forecasted demand.